R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen or a C_1-C_5 alkyl group;

[R^3 represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl group, an alicyclic acyl group, an aromatic acyl group, a heterocyclic acyl group, an araliphatic acyl group, a (C_1-C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl group or an aralkyloxycarbonyl group;]

R^3 represents hydrogen; C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl; (C_5-C_7 cycloalkane)carbonyl; benzoyl, benzoyl substituted with one to three substituents selected from the group of C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, nitro, amino and di(C_1-C_4 alkyl)amino; naphthoyl; 4-7 membered heterocyclic acyl wherein heterocyclic moiety has O, S or N hetero atoms; phenyl(C_2-C_3)aliphatic acyl; cinnamoyl; (C_1-C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl; or benzoyloxycarbonyl;

a1

R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_5 alkyl group or a C_1-C_5 alkoxy group, or R^4 and R^5 together represent a C_1-C_4 alkylenedioxy group;

n is 1, 2 or 3;

W represents the $-CH_2-$, >CO or >CH-OR^6 group (in which R^6 represents any one of the atoms or groups defined for R^3 and may be the same as or different from R^3); and

Y and Z are the same or different and each represents the oxygen atom or the imino group[];

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. **(Amended)** Compounds as claimed in Claim 1, in which; R^3 represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl group, [an] one of said aromatic acyl [group] groups or [a] one of said heterocyclic acyl [group] groups

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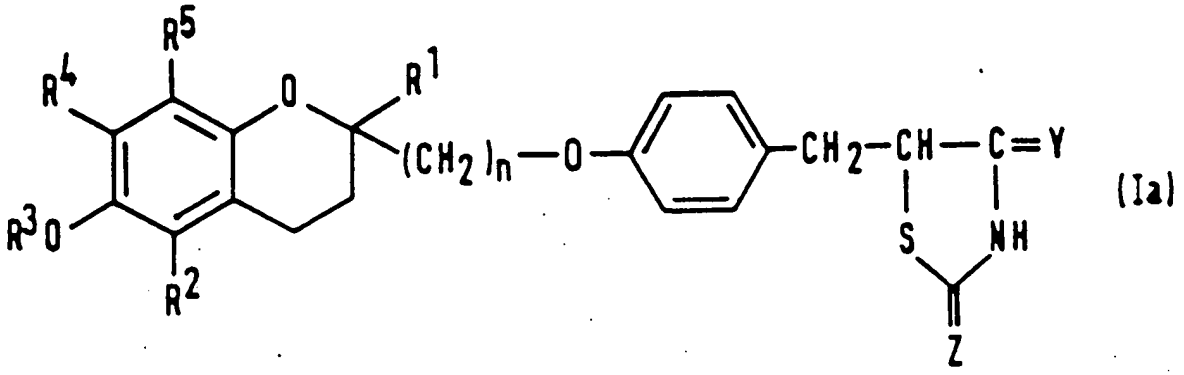
Claim 3, line 5, delete "an" and insert --one of said--.; same line, delete "group" and insert --groups--.

~~12~~. **(Amended)** Compounds of formula (Ia):



(Ia)

[[] in which:

R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen or a C_1-C_5 alkyl group;

[R^3 represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl group, an alicyclic acyl group, an aromatic acyl group, a heterocyclic acyl group, an araliphatic acyl group, a (C_1-C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl group or an aralkyloxycarbonyl group;]

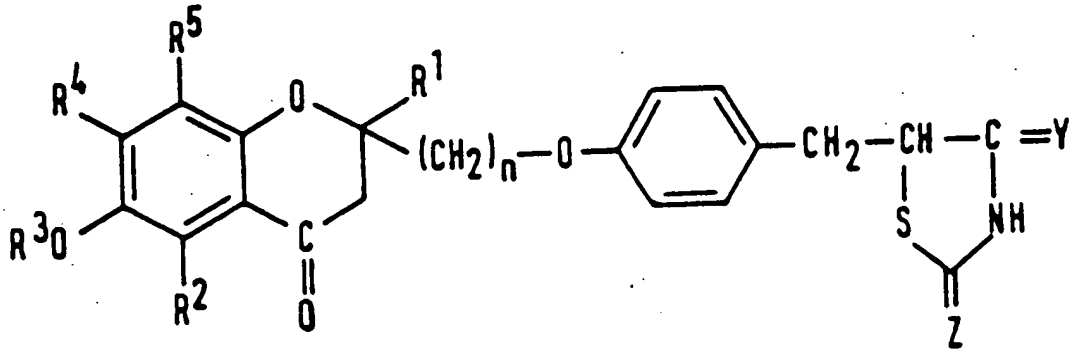
R^3 represents hydrogen; C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl; (C_5-C_7 cycloalkane)carbonyl; benzoyl, benzoyl substituted with one to three substituents selected from the group of C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, nitro, amino and di(C_1-C_4 alkyl)amino; naphthoyl; 4-7 membered heterocyclic acyl wherein heterocyclic moiety has O, S or N hetero atoms; phenyl(C_2-C_3)aliphatic acyl; cinnamoyl; (C_1-C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl; or benzoyloxycarbonyl;

R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_5 alkyl group or a C_1-C_5 alkoxy group, or R^4 and R^5 together represent a C_1-C_4 alkylenedioxy group;

n is 1, 2 or 3; and

Y and Z are the same or different and each represents the oxygen atom or the imino group[]; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

13. (Amended) Compounds of formula (Ib):



(Ib)

[[] in which:

R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen or a C_1-C_5 alkyl group;

[R^3 represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl group, an alicyclic acyl group, an aromatic acyl group, a heterocyclic acyl group, an araliphatic acyl group, a (C_1-C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl group or an aralkyloxycarbonyl group;]

R^3 represents hydrogen; C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl; (C_5-C_7 cycloalkane)carbonyl; benzoyl, benzoyl substituted with one to three substituents selected from the group of C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, nitro, amino and di(C_1-C_4 alkyl)amino; naphthoyl; 4-7 membered heterocyclic acyl wherein heterocyclic moiety has O, S or N hetero atoms; phenyl(C_2-C_3)aliphatic acyl; cinnamoyl; (C_1-C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl; or benzoyloxycarbonyl;

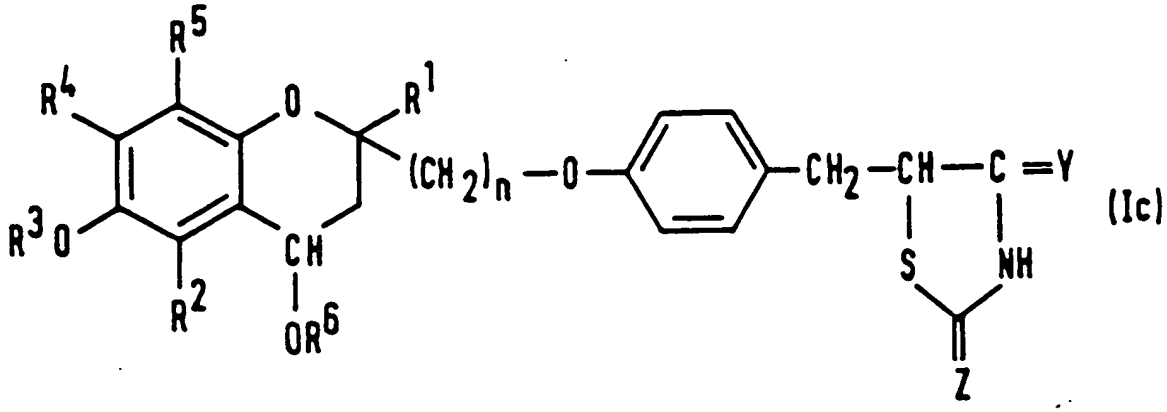
R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_5 alkyl group or a C_1-C_5 alkoxy group, or R^4 and R^5 together represent a C_1-C_4 alkylenedioxy group;

n is 1, 2 or 3; and

Y and Z are the same or different and each represents the oxygen atom or the imino group[];

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

21 ~~14~~ (Amended) Compounds of formula (Ic):



(Ic)

[[ ] in which:

R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen or a C_1-C_5 alkyl group;

av [R^3 represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl group, an alicyclic acyl group, an aromatic acyl group, a heterocyclic acyl group, an araliphatic acyl group, a (C_1-C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl group or an aralkyloxycarbonyl group;]

R^3 represents hydrogen; C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl; (C_5-C_7 cycloalkane)carbonyl; benzoyl, benzoyl substituted with one to three substituents selected from the group of C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, nitro, amino and di(C_1-C_4 alkyl)amino; naphthoyl; 4-7 membered heterocyclic acyl wherein heterocyclic moiety has O, S or N hetero atoms; phenyl(C_2-C_3)aliphatic acyl; cinnamoyl; (C_1-C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl; or benzoyloxycarbonyl;

R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_5 alkyl group or a C_1-C_5 alkoxy group, or R^4 and R^5 together represent a C_1-C_4 alkylenedioxy group;

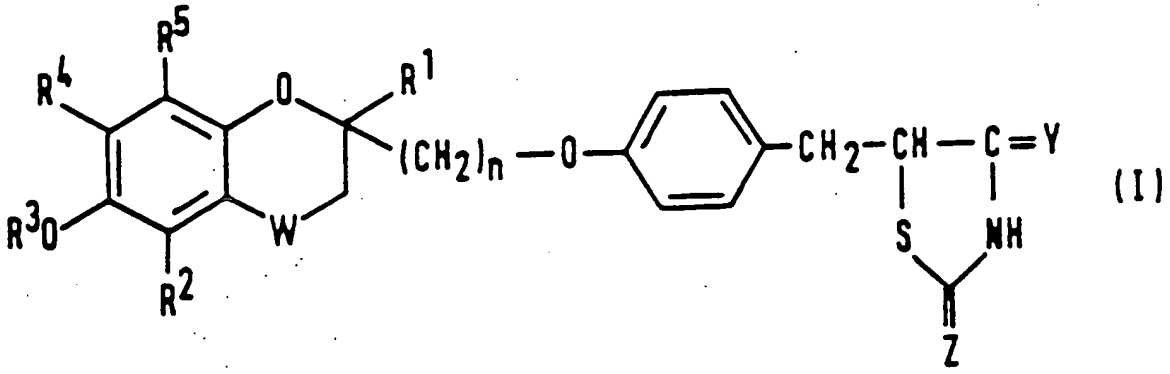
n is 1, 2 or 3;

R^6 represents any one of the atoms or groups defined for R^3 and may be the same as or different from R^3; and

Y and Z are the same or different and each represents the oxygen atom or the imino group[];

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

17. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of hyperlipaemia or hyperglycaemia, which comprises at least one active compound in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent, wherein said active compound is selected from compounds of formula (I):



(I)

[[] in which:

R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen or a C_1-C_5 alkyl group;

[R^3 represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl group, an alicyclic acyl group, an aromatic acyl group, a heterocyclic acyl group, an araliphatic acyl group, a (C_1-C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl group or an aralkyloxycarbonyl group;]

R^3 represents hydrogen; C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl; (C_5-C_7 cycloalkane)carbonyl; benzoyl, benzoyl substituted with one to three substituents selected from the group of C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, nitro, amino and di(C_1-C_4 alkyl)amino; naphthoyl; 4-7 membered heterocyclic acyl wherein heterocyclic moiety has O, S or N hetero atoms; phenyl(C_2-C_3)aliphatic acyl; cinnamoyl; (C_1-C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl; or benzoyloxycarbonyl;

R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_5 alkyl group or a C_1-C_5 alkoxy group, or R^4 and R^5 together represent a C_1-C_4 alkylenedioxy group;

n is 1, 2 or 3;

W represents the $-CH_2-$, >CO or >CH-OR^6 group (in which R^6 represents any one of the atoms or groups defined for R^3 and may be the same as or different from R^3); and

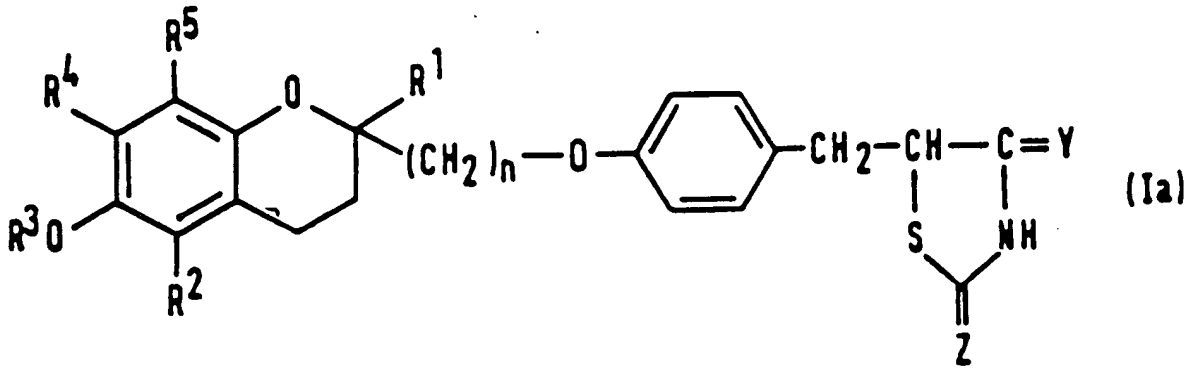
Y and Z are the same or different and each represents the oxygen atom or the imino group[];

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

18. (Amended) Compositions as claimed in Claim 24, in which: R^3 represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl group, [an] one of said aromatic acyl [group] groups or [a] one of said heterocyclic acyl [group] groups.

Claim 19, line 5, delete "an" and insert --one of said--; same line, delete "group" and insert --groups--.

35 28. (Amended) Compositions as claimed in Claim 24, in which said active compound is selected from compounds of formula (Ia):



(Ia)

[[ ] in which:

R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen or a C_1-C_5 alkyl group;

[R^3 represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl group, an alicyclic acyl group, an aromatic acyl group, a heterocyclic acyl group, an araliphatic acyl group, a (C_1-C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl group or an aralkyloxycarbonyl group;]

R^3 represents hydrogen; C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl; (C_5-C_7 cycloalkane)carbonyl; benzoyl, benzoyl substituted with one to three substituents selected from the group of C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, nitro, amino and di(C_1-C_4 alkyl)amino; naphthoyl; 4-7 membered heterocyclic acyl wherein heterocyclic moiety has O, S or N hetero atoms; phenyl(C_2-C_3)aliphatic acyl; cinnamoyl; (C_1-C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl; or benzoyloxycarbonyl;

R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_5 alkyl group or a C_1-C_5 alkoxy group, or R^4 and R^5 together represent a C_1-C_4 alkylenedioxy group;

n is 1, 2 or 3; and

Y and Z are the same or different and each represents the oxygen atom or the imino group[)];

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

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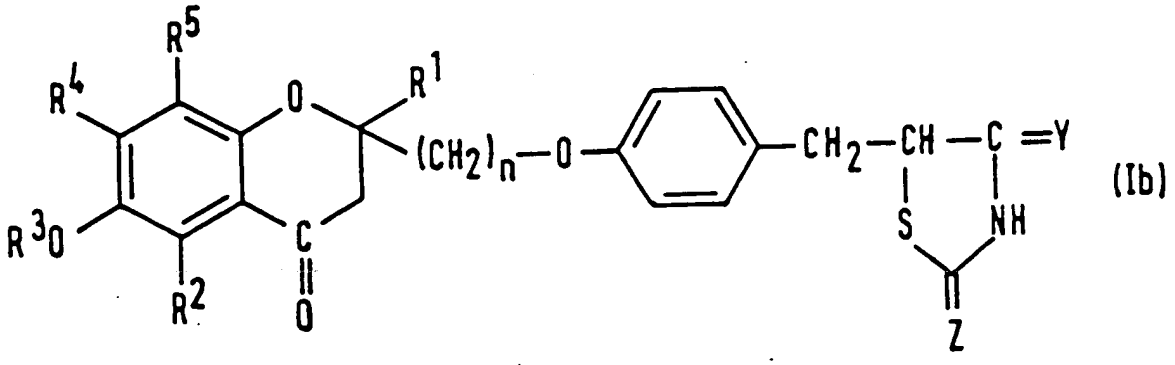
36/29. (Amended) Compositions as claimed in Claim 24/1, in which said active compound is selected from compounds of formula (Ib):



(Ib)

[[ ] in which:

R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen or a C_1-C_5 alkyl group; [R^3 represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl group, an alicyclic acyl group, an aromatic acyl group, a heterocyclic acyl group, an araliphatic acyl group, a (C_1-C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl group or an aralkyloxycarbonyl group;]

R^3 represents hydrogen; C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl; (C_5-C_7 cycloalkane)carbonyl; benzoyl, benzoyl substituted with one to three substituents selected from the group of C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, nitro, amino and di(C_1-C_4 alkyl)amino; naphthoyl; 4-7 membered heterocyclic acyl wherein heterocyclic moiety has O, S or N hetero atoms; phenyl(C_2-C_3)aliphatic acyl; cinnamoyl; (C_1-C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl; or benzoyloxycarbonyl;

R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_5 alkyl group or a C_1-C_5 alkoxy group, or R^4 and R^5 together represent a C_1-C_4 alkylenedioxy group;

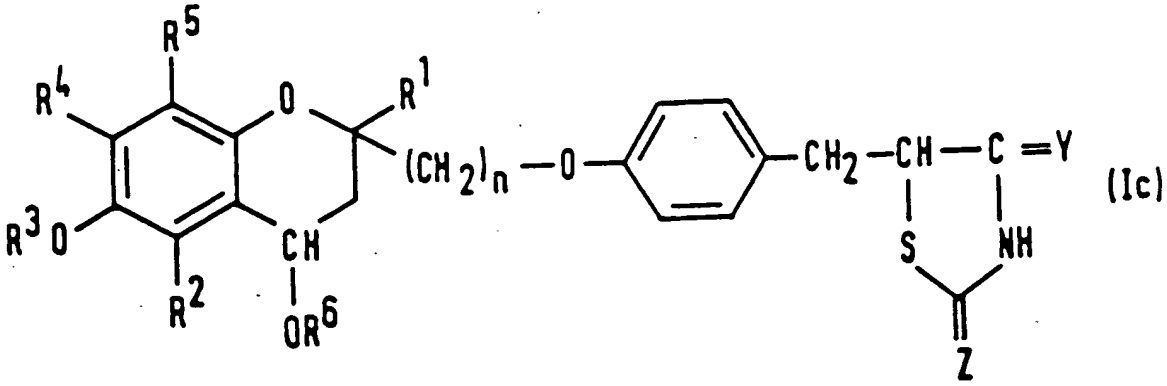
n is 1, 2 or 3;

and

Y and Z are the same or different and each represents the oxygen atom or the imino group[1];

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

30. (Amended) Compositions as claimed in Claim 24, in which said active compound is selected from compounds of formula (Ic):



(Ic)

[[] in which:

R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen or a C_1-C_5 alkyl group; [R^3 represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl group, an alicyclic acyl group, an aromatic acyl group, a heterocyclic acyl group, an araliphatic acyl group, a (C_1-C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl group or an aralkyloxycarbonyl group;]

R^3 represents hydrogen; C_1-C_6 aliphatic acyl; (C_5-C_7 cycloalkane)carbonyl; benzoyl, benzoyl substituted with one to three substituents selected from the group of C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, nitro, amino and di(C_1-C_4 alkyl)amino; naphthoyl; 4-7 membered heterocyclic acyl wherein heterocyclic moiety has O, S or N hetero atoms; phenyl(C_2-C_3)aliphatic acyl; cinnamoyl; (C_1-C_6 alkoxy)carbonyl; or benzoyloxycarbonyl;

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R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_5 alkyl group or a C_1-C_5 alkoxy group, or R^4 and R^5 together represent a C_1-C_4 alkylenedioxy group;

n is 1, 2 or 3;

R^6 represents any one of the atoms or groups defined for R^3 and may be the same as or different from R^3;

and

Y and Z are the same or different and each represents the oxygen atom or the imino group[ ];

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Please cancel Claim 11 and add the following claims:

33. The compound as claimed in Claim 1, 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

34. The compound as claimed in Claim 1, 5-[4-(2-ethyl-6-hydroxy-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-yl-methoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

35. The compound as claimed in Claim 1, 5-{4-[2-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methylchroman-2-yl)-ethoxy]benzyl}thiazolidine-2,4-dione and pharmaceutically salts thereof.

36. The compound as claimed in Claim 1, 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2-isobutyl-5,7,8-trimethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

37. The compound as claimed in Claim 1, 5-[4-(6-acetoxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-ylmethoxy)-benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

38. The compound as claimed in Claim 1, 5-[4-(6-butyryloxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-yl-methoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

39. The compound as claimed in Claim 1, 5-[4-(6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl-methoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

40. The compound as claimed in Claim 1, 5-[4-(7-t-butyl-6-hydroxy-2-methyl-4-oxochroman-2-yl-methoxy)benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

REMARKS

Claims 2-11, 15, 16 and 18-27 are allowed. Claims 1, 12-14, 17 and 28-30 were rejected under 35 USC 112 with specific objections to the definition of certain of the R^3 moieties. These claims have been amended by replacing the definition of R^3 to obviate the objections. The amended definition of R^3 is supported by the disclosure on pages 7 and 8 of the specification.

Claim 11 which recited a Markush group of 8 specific compounds and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof has been replaced by eight claims, each directed to one of said compounds and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

It is respectfully submitted that applicants' specification and claims comply with the requirements of 35 USC 112.

Reconsideration is requested. Allowance is solicited.